

His interest in Asia, ignited when military service took him to China in 1922, was bolstered by academic credentials from what is now The University of Montana in Missoula. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1942 and the Senate in 1952, he was a leading Asia expert in Congress and went on to become the longest-serving U.S. ambassador to Japan. Maureen Mansfield not only supported Mike's career, she inspired it. For this reason, the Foundation established by Congress to honor Mike begins with Maureen's name.

Maureen and Mike Mansfield's values, ideals and vision for U.S.-Asia relations continue through the exchanges, dialogues and publications of the Mansfield Foundation. For 25 years the Foundation has helped create networks among U.S. and Asian leaders, explored the underlying issues influencing public policies, and increased awareness about the nations and peoples of Asia.

A centerpiece of the Foundation's work is the Mansfield Fellowship Program, established by Congress in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. Federal Government officials with substantial Japan experience. Each year this government-to-government exchange allows a select group of Federal employees to gain proficiency in the Japanese language and practical experience working in the Japanese government. Since the Fellowships were established, 86 Fellows from 22 U.S. agencies and departments have entered the program.

The Foundation is also instrumental in a number of other programs.

The Mansfield Congressional Study Tour in Asia is a program that has provided opportunities for Senators and their staff to develop an authoritative understanding of Asia through meetings with government officials, business leaders, and NGO representatives in major cities and rural areas. To date, the Foundation has led 11 senatorial study trips to approximately 30 cities in China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

The Foundation and the Center recently co-sponsored the 24th annual Mansfield Conference, which addressed a timely and critical issue—the security implications of climate change in Asia.

The Mansfield Foundation was established in 1983 with a single focus and mission—to promote understanding and cooperation in U.S.-Asia relations. I believe both Mike and Maureen would be proud of all the Mansfield Foundation has done to advance that goal in the last 25 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CALIFORNIA REINVESTMENT COALITION AND ITS HONORING OF FOUR COMMUNITY HEROES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on October 2, 2008, the California Reinvestment Coalition, an organization that works to bring financial and housing services to low-income communities, will be honoring four community heroes for their efforts in making homeownership and financial independence a reality for many of Sacramento's residents. These heroes are:

Elaine Abelaye of Asian Resources Inc., Ken Cross of Sacramento Habitat for Humanity, Mike Himes of NeighborWorks Sacramento, and Ron Javor of the California Department of Housing and Community Development. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these distinguished individuals.

Elaine Abelaye has demonstrated true leadership and commitment to the social, community and economic development needs of low-income individuals and families in Sacramento. Her leadership has led to the development of the Dare to Dream Entrepreneurship Development and Financial Literacy Education programs for the local Hmong and Vietnamese communities. Elaine has shown true dedication to providing multiple services needed in the Sacramento area. She has truly empowered community members to become a vital part of our changing and diverse society.

Ken Cross has substantially increased production of housing for very low-income households in Sacramento. Under Ken's leadership, Sacramento Habitat for Humanity runs the ReStore, a building material recycler that sells second-hand and donated building materials. He has also been a strong advocate in promoting the policies that produce affordable and inclusionary housing. Ken's personal approach makes him a great advocate for Sacramento's neediest families.

Mike Himes has demonstrated his dedication to helping families achieve successful, long-term homeownership. When the foreclosure crisis began to pound on the door of the region, Mike and his colleagues at NeighborWorks Sacramento led the way to create and promote many different collaborative relationships to assist borrowers. Mike is a smart, patient and outstanding individual who deserves recognition for his many personal and professional contributions. His expertise, strong principles and commitment are shown each time he helps a family.

Ron Javor has worked tirelessly for decades within state government and the community to improve access to safe, affordable and accessible housing for lower-income households. Ron has worked consistently to develop and improve state programs that serve the neediest Californians. As a community activist, he helped found the Sacramento Housing Alliance and serves on many local nonprofit boards. He has been a strong voice in local efforts to ensure that local governments meet their obligations to adequately serve the homeless and lower-income households.

Madam Speaker, because of the efforts of the California Reinvestment Coalition and community leaders like Elaine Abelaye, Ken Cross, Mike Himes, and Ron Javor, low-income communities and communities of color have access to fair and equal housing, banking and other financial services. It is my sincere hope the coalition and the outstanding people noted today will continue to serve the people of Sacramento for many years to come, and mentor the next generation of community leaders.

OAKLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: A LEGACY OF 150 YEARS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Oakland Presbyterian Church in the Cleveland community of North Carolina as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Oakland Presbyterian Church is the oldest Presbyterian church in Johnston County, North Carolina, and is an important institution in the region.

Local residents, Mr. John McLean and Mrs. Sarah Sanders, first gathered worshippers under an old brush shelter about a mile from the present location on land that was then known as Finch Place. On Saturday, August 7, 1858, Oakland was officially organized into a Presbyterian Church by representatives of Orange Presbytery with a congregation of six charter members. The very next day, the congregation elected John W. Hodges as its first elder and the Reverend T.B. Neal was installed as the first pastor on October 30, 1858.

The land for the church was donated by Mrs. Sanders, and because the property was shaded by a stand of oak trees, it seemed natural for the congregation to choose Oakland for its name. Despite expansion and renovation, Oakland Church continues to worship at its original site, across from the old Cleveland School building where I attended school. The Oakland grounds encompass the Oakland Church Cemetery, which was established with the church and continues to serve the community. While tradition is strong here, there are also new additions. In 1972, church members contributed stones to build the "Cairn of Remembrance," "in memory of all who worshiped at this hallowed place since its founding in 1858," as its dedicatory plaque reads. The stone monument, common in the Scottish Highlands, connects Oakland to its Presbyterian spiritual roots in Scotland.

The congregation has been blessed by outstanding pastoral leadership, which continues today with its current pastor, Dr. Stephen E. Aschmann, a native of Richmond, Virginia. Among the many notable church leaders was Dr. Drury Lacy II, former president of Davidson College, who performed the marriage ceremony for "Stonewall" Jackson and his bride Mary Anna Morrison. Another of the congregation's early ministers was Dr. Benjamin Rice Lacy, Jr., who was elected to serve as the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the most honored office in the denomination. Dr. Lacy also served for many years as president of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

From the beginning, Oakland has also been guided by strong and progressive lay leadership. In 1969, Mrs. Gladys E. Barber and Miss Elizabeth Talton made history when they became the first women to be elected and ordained as deacons. Later in 1975, Mrs. Barber was ordained as the congregation's first female elder.

Oakland has a tradition of emphasizing service, mission, outreach, and education. In recent years the congregation has enjoyed

widespread community support with its Harvest Day Sale and Golfing for Jessica Tournament. Oakland's annual Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast draws hundreds of local families and serves as the kick-off of the Celebrate Cleveland Independence Day Festivities.

Today, the congregation offers a wide range of activities that minister to all ages. Members of the congregation lead the weekly Golden Circle Bible Study at the Brian Center nursing facility in Clayton. Two mission teams have been sent to New Orleans to help rebuild the community devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Ministries generously supported by the Oakland faith community include the Basic Needs Ministry, Harbor House, Operation Hope, the Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, wounded veterans and troops in foreign conflicts, local school teachers, and the Barium Springs Children's Home.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Oakland Presbyterian Church as it celebrates 150 years of service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending this outstanding institution.

TRIBUTE TO HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege for me to pay tribute to over 112,000 of my constituents during Hispanic Heritage Month. September 15th through October 15th has been selected to honor, celebrate and commemorate the history and contributions that people of Hispanic heritage have made to the United States of America.

Today there are 45.5 million Hispanic Americans and it is fitting to acknowledge their many contributions. The belief that hard work can bring a better life and future for our children is part of our shared and treasured American dream.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding organizations serving California's 14th Congressional District. In addition to many other excellent organizations, the following make important contributions to our community while respecting, preserving and sharing their heritage and culture.

The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley is a public foundation that cultivates philanthropy to inspire Hispanic children and families to achieve personal greatness.

The Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley engages leadership and bridges resources to invest in a thriving Hispanic community.

MACLA Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana is a contemporary art space dedicated to supporting the work of emerging Latino artists and audiences and promotes programs that create opportunities between traditional audiences and new art forms and emerging artists. Mexican Heritage Corporation is an arts and cultural organization whose focus is to affirm, celebrate, and preserve the complexity and richness of Latino art and cultural heritage. The Mexican Heritage Corporation serves Silicon Valley and Northern California by presenting and advancing Mexican and multicultural performing arts. It is one of the largest Latino cultural centers in the Nation.

Fair Oaks Community Center—The Fair Oaks Community Center is a multi-service center offering a variety of services to the broader Redwood City Community. Services include: Education, immigration and citizenship, senior services, housing, employment, legal services, and crisis intervention. They also offer emergency food programs served by a combination of City staff, as well as representatives from public and private non-profit agencies.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month to honor the citizens who work daily to build a better future for all American families.

HONORING ASSEMBLYWOMAN
PATTY BERG CALIFORNIA STATE
ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 1

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize State Assemblywoman Patty Berg, an extraordinary citizen of Humboldt County, who is being honored for her years of dedicated public service to the people of California.

Over the past 3 decades, Assemblywoman Berg has been a tireless advocate for families and children and for older adults. She was the founding Executive Director of the Area 1 Agency on Aging, which serves Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Under her passionate direction the agency was recognized nationwide for its model comprehensive system providing services to California's seniors. She has also become an indispensable resource on aging issues within the State Assembly.

The citizens of California's 1st Assembly District recognized Patty Berg's dedication to preparing California for its current and future challenges by electing her three times to represent them in the California Legislature. During her tenure, Patty has chaired the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. She has served on many committees with jurisdiction over important public policy areas, including health, insurance, agriculture, and the environment. Patty's exceptional "people" skills were evident in bringing together progressive and conservative colleagues to help improve the lives of North Coast residents. She is passionate, committed to public service, hard-working, and extremely skilled.

As a champion for the rights of families, youth, and older adults, Assemblywoman Berg has touched many lives. Her K-12 comprehensive family life education curriculum was the first in California and was distributed throughout the country. She increased funding for computers and technology in our local schools. As chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus she emphasized the need for flexible workplace policies to allow working families to care for their loved ones. Due to her relentless efforts, Trinity County's only hospital was saved, and a vital county medical services program was preserved.

Assemblywoman Berg is being honored for her contribution to one of our Nation's most

precious rights—participation in the political process. She is being recognized for her contribution by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as "Democrat of the Year, 2008."

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Assemblywoman Patty Berg for her unwavering commitment to public service and to the ideals and values that sustain our great Nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 2008

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 2638

Account: Federal Emergency Management Agency's Pre-Disaster Mitigation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Trenton

Address of Requesting Entity: City of Trenton

Description of Request:

The City of Trenton will use the \$500,000 in Pre-Disaster Mitigation funding in the FY 2009 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill to begin elevating the utilities of 270 flood prone properties that have suffered severe and repetitive physical damage resulting in significant economic loss.

Trenton's Island and Glen Afton neighborhoods are greatly affected by rapidly rising flood water as a result of their proximity to the Delaware River. These two neighborhoods are bordered by the Delaware River to the southwest and the Delaware and Raritan Canal to the northwest. Route 29 (a four lane state highway that traverses the City) splits the two neighborhoods; causing an island-like geography.

These waterfront communities are home to approximately 270 structures, many of which are occupied by single family working class homeowners who have suffered great financial loss as a result of: water damaged electrical distribution systems, hot water heaters and central heating units, as well as the loss of personal items that can never be replaced.

Six historical river crests (occurring from the earlier part of the 20th century until present) have caused considerable property damage and interrupted sewer, electric and gas services, causing the evacuation of these neighborhoods. Although these neighborhoods are designated as a 100 year flood plain, the last two floods occurred within seven months of each other (September 2004 and April 2005). Just as the Island and Glen Afton residents saw their lives getting back to some semblance of normalcy, the second flood occurred, resulting in lost wages, belongings, property, major systems and complete dislocation.

One major contributing factor to the early flooding is the storm sewer outfall, which provides an early entry point for water to backflow into the lower points of the Island and Glen Afton neighborhoods via the storm sewer system during early flood stages. However, once the river reaches two feet above flood stage,